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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FIFTIETH SESSION

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN: ACTION FOR EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Letter dated 11 October 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with the decision taken by the Heads of Delegations gathered at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, I have the honour to request, under rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace" in the agenda of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly.

Given the importance of the issue, I further request that the discussion of the item take place in plenary and that action be taken in the Third Committee.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum is attached.

(Signed) Felipe MABILANGAN
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the Philippines to the United Nations
Chairman of the Group of 77
New York

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

The Fourth World Conference on Women was held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995 under the Presidency of Madame Chen Muhua, Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China.

At its conclusion, the Fourth World Conference on Women, which was widely attended by Member States, adopted the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action.

In chapter V, on the issue of implementation and follow-up, the Beijing Platform for Action states, inter alia:

> "307. Responsibility for ensuring the implementation of the Platform for Action and the integration of a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system must rest at the highest levels"

and

> "310. In following up the Fourth World Conference on Women, all entities of the United Nations system focusing on the advancement of women should have the necessary resources and support to carry out follow-up activities. The efforts of gender focal points within organizations should be well integrated into overall policy, planning, programming and budgeting."

To this end:

> "313. The General Assembly, as the highest intergovernmental body in the United Nations, is the principal policy-making and appraisal organ on matters relating to the follow-up to the Conference and, as such, should integrate gender issues throughout its work. It should appraise progress in the effective implementation of the Platform for Action, recognizing that these issues cut across social, political and economic policy. At its fiftieth session, in 1995, the General Assembly will have before it the report of the Fourth World Conference on Women. In accordance with its resolution 49/161, it will also examine a report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Conference, taking into account the recommendations of the Conference. The General Assembly should include the follow-up to the Conference as part of its continuing work on the advancement of women. In 1996, 1998 and 2000, it should review the implementation of the Platform for Action."